

**REMARKS****I. Status of the Claims and Interview**

Claims 1, 3, 4, 11, 12, 14-24, 28, 29 and 31 are pending. Claims 3, 4 and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Claims 1, 3, 4, 28, 29 and 31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Adler *et al.* The specific grounds for rejection, and applicants' response thereto, are set out in detail below.

On May 17, 2004, Examiner Robinson contacted the undersigned to address various issues regarding the claims as resubmitted on May 3, 2004. During the course of those discussions, both the undersigned and Examiner Robinson became aware of certain discrepancies in the claims that made applicants' previous submission non-enterable. Examiner Robinson indicated that an Examiner's Interview Summary would be mailed indicating this. However, not wanting to further delay prosecution, applicants are resubmitting their previous response with corrected claims prior to receiving the Examiner's Interview Summary.

**II. Restriction and Rejoinder**

Applicants note and appreciate the examiner's detailed discussion of the restriction requirement and conditions for possible rejoinder of method claims. Applicants believe that method claims, as amended herein, contain subject matter that is commensurate in scope with allowable composition claims. Thus, rejoinder of claims 11, 12, and 14-24 is respectfully requested. Also, applicants have amended method claims 11 and 19 to recite all three peptides: SEQ ID NOS:2-4.

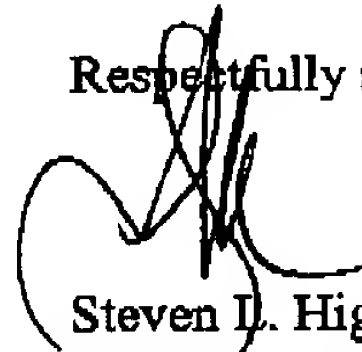
**III. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)**

Claims 1-4, 6-8, 28-32 and 34-36 stand rejected under §102(b) over Adler *et al.* Applicants have amended claims 1, 11, 19 and 28 to include the limitation of previous claims 5 and 33, namely, oral formulation. Thus, it is believed that the amended claims are novel over Adler *et al.* Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is therefore respectfully requested.

**IV. Conclusion**

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at (512) 536-3184 with any questions, comments or suggestions relating to the referenced patent application.

Respectfully submitted,



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